

through prioritizing projects and making sure that agency employees had the support required to tackle Federal infrastructure issues.

He started his career at the Timken Company of Canton, a leading international manufacturer of highly engineered bearings and alloy steels. At Timken, Steve progressed from an initial position as stockroom clerk to vice president. In 1991, then Governor George Voinovich appointed Steve to his Cabinet as director of the Department of Administrative Services, which provides services to State agencies that are similar to what GSA provides Federal agencies. After his successful tenure in State government, Steve returned to Timken where he was elected as an officer and promoted to senior vice president.

Additionally, Steve has been very active in community and charitable organizations. He has been recognized by numerous groups for his commitment to his home community.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Steve for his work in getting a new Federal building for Canton, Ohio. Through Steve's leadership, this new Federal center will be a one-stop facility where citizens can come to various Federal agencies to get issues addressed. The building will be a model for the GSA system, and we owe its success to Steve's guidance. I look forward to being with Steve at the future ceremony that opens Canton's new Federal building.

We are proud of Steve's service at GSA, but also pleased that he, and his wife, Sondra, are returning home to Canton, Ohio and be active members in our community.

TRIBUTE TO MALIK AHMED,  
FOUNDER AND CEO, BETTER  
FAMILY LIFE, INC.

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2005*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Malik Ahmed, the founder and chief executive officer of Better Family Life, Inc., a holistic cultural and community development corporation he founded in February 1983. He has pioneered the concept of synthesizing and blending the imperatives of African-American culture with the complexities of community and economic development.

Better Family Life is dedicated to the prosperity and growth of the African-American family, as well as the preservation of culture, consciousness and community. Organized out of a need to find internal solutions to the crises within the African-American family, the organization's mission is to plan and establish social, cultural, artistic, youth, economic, housing and educational programs that help to promote positive and innovative changes within the metropolitan St. Louis and East St. Louis communities.

Under his leadership Better Family Life, Inc. has grown to include a full-time professional staff of more than 70, with 30 percent of the staff having advanced degrees. Recently, the organization purchased the former Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School at 5415 Page Boulevard, in St. Louis, MO. When the \$4 million renovation is completed, the three-story facility will be home to the Better Family Life Cultural Center & Museum, housing cor-

porate offices and four—job training—community programs: Project RESPECT—job training—Neighbor-to-Neighbor Housing Counseling & Asset Building, Youth Passport to the Future and Cultural Arts.

Other Better Family Life programs include the annual Kwanzaa Expo and the Unity Ball extravaganza. The 20th annual Unity Ball has grown to include approximately 1,500 attendees and honors numerous community leaders, elders, youth, movers and shakers at all levels. Recently, in response to this country's worst disaster on record, Better Family Life, along with the Millions More Movement, spearheaded a relief drive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, sending an 18-wheel tractor-trailer filled with donations from the St. Louis community to Hattiesburg, MS.

Prior to founding Better Family Life, Mr. Ahmed was a registered representative with the prestigious financial planning firm, The Moneta Group. An avid collector of fine art and literature, he is president of B4 Positive Products and Marketing, a business he founded in 1989 to network, market and distribute books and African artifacts.

Mr. Ahmed has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. He speaks fluent French. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he worked for 3 years as an urban planner in the West African country of Mali, where he successfully developed a cost-effective sanitation program for the capital city of Bamako. Mr. Ahmed holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public administration/policy analysis. He is the recipient of many community service awards and serves on various boards. He is married to DeBorah and they have one son, Shabazz.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Malik Ahmed before the United States House of Representatives for his tireless dedication to the development of culture, community and self-improvement among minorities in St. Louis.

RECOGNIZING MURRAY/CALLOWAY  
AND OHIO COUNTY

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2005*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two outstanding communities in my District which were recently selected as two of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth organization. Murray/Calloway County and Ohio County, Kentucky, were chosen based on the their fulfillment of the America's Promise Five Promises: Safe Places, Effective Education, Opportunities to Serve, Healthy Start, and Caring Adults. These communities have demonstrated their commitment to the success of our area's youth by focusing on these promises and working together to ensure our youth have the skills and resources they need to succeed in life. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to represent them in Congress and grateful for their hard work and determination.

Murray/Calloway County was recognized for the healthy start and safe places it provides area students. In the fall of 2005, Calloway County implemented a countywide after school

program for grades K–5. Up to 175 students participated in the program last year alone. In addition, partnerships between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and local schools have been highly successful in establishing mentoring relationships among citizens and elementary and middle school students. Murray can also be proud of the low dropout rate at Murray High School, which is only one percent. In terms of health, Murray/Calloway County has a teenage birthrate significantly below the statewide average and has decreased drug use among its youth. Clearly, this community has much to be proud of and the youth have an ideal community in which to learn and grow.

Ohio County found itself in the spotlight because of the caring adults in the community, the safe places and healthy start it offers youth, and its effective education policies. Most experts will agree that parental involvement is important in the success of a child's education. In Ohio County, this lesson is certainly understood by the parents who volunteered over 13,800 hours in local schools. The County also invested in a state-of-the-art fitness center and now has 21 percent of the county as members. The birthrate among 15–17 year-olds decreased from 43 percent in 1997 to 14.7 percent in 2001, and the dropout rate among high school students also decreased from 8.5 percent to just over 1 percent. Perhaps most impressively, local students and adults involved in the Together We Care/Ohio County Schools community partnership decided to tackle tobacco use among kids. In a county where the largest crop is tobacco, this was a real challenge. These student/adult groups visited stores selling tobacco products and requested that they remove ads for tobacco products in their stores and move products to less visible locations. One month later, 95 percent of the stores had made the requested changes.

Again, I am proud of the progress these communities are making and pleased that they have been selected as two of the 100 Best Communities for Youth.

TRIBUTE TO HOLY ASCENSION  
CHURCH AND HIS HOLINESS  
FILARET PATRIARCH OF KYIV  
AND ALL RUS-UKRAINE

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the 80th anniversary of the existence of Holy Ascension Church, located on Broad Street in Clifton, New Jersey. To mark this important occasion, the church will be honored by a visit from His Holiness Filaret Patriarch of Kyiv and all Rus-Ukraine.

As a lifelong resident and former Mayor of the neighboring city of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that has meant more to the surrounding community than Holy Ascension Church. For the past 80 years, the men and women of Holy Ascension Church have given generously of their time, talents, and energy, and have made an indelible mark on countless people's lives. I feel that it is only fitting that Holy Ascension Church be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.